

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the Claims as follows:

1) (Currently amended) A drive assembly (8; 52) for driving a rotary member (10), in particular the shaft of a pump (7) of a combustion engine (1); the assembly (8; 52) being characterized by comprising a movable supporting member (15); a drive wheel (16) fitted idly to said movable supporting member (15); elastic means (30) for moving said movable supporting member (15), so that said drive wheel (16) angularly engages said rotary member (10) and a drive member (5), powered by said combustion engine (1), to drive the rotary member (10); and further comprising actuating means (22, 47; 58, 81) which can be activated to exert a force in opposition to that exerted by said elastic means (30), to detach said drive wheel (16) from at least one of said rotary member (10) and said drive member (5),

wherein said actuating means comprise an electric motor (81) is reversible such that, when said elastic means (30) exert a force, to push said drive wheel (16) against said rotary member (10) and said drive member (5), which is greater than the travel resistance of said actuating means (22, 47; 58, 81) when maintained in a disabled rest condition, said force overcomes the resistance of the electrical rotary motor.

2) (Cancelled)

3) (Cancelled)

4) (Original) An assembly as claimed in Claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein said actuating means (22, 47; 58, 81) also comprise a mechanical drive (22; 58) interposed between said actuator (47; 81) and said movable supporting member (15).

5) (Original) An assembly as claimed in Claim 4, characterized in that said movable supporting member (15) comprises a connecting portion (20), opposite that supporting said drive wheel (16), connected to said mechanical drive (22; 58) to move along a circular trajectory.

6) (Currently amended) An assembly as claimed in Claim 5, characterized in that ~~said actuator (81) is a rotary actuator, and in that~~ said mechanical drive (58) comprises a gear drive (78) interposed between the electric rotary ~~actuator~~ motor (81) and said movable supporting member (15).

7) (Currently amended) An assembly as claimed in Claim 5 6, characterized in that said mechanical drive comprises cam actuating means (22; 59).

8) (Original) An assembly as claimed in Claim 7, characterized in that said cam actuating means (59) are interposed between said gear drive (78) and said connecting portion (20).

9) (Original) An assembly as claimed in Claim 8, characterized in that said connecting portion (20) is a hollow tubular portion having an axis of symmetry (23) parallel to the axis of rotation (19) of said drive wheel (16); and in that said cam actuating means (59) comprise a hinge pin (60) engaging said hollow tubular portion in rotary manner about said axis of symmetry (23), and hinged to a fixed frame (53) to rotate about a hinge axis (66) parallel to and eccentric with respect to the axis of symmetry (23); said actuating means (58, 81) rotating said hinge pin (60) about said hinge axis (66).

10) (Original) An assembly as claimed in Claim 9, characterized in that said elastic means comprise a torsion spring (30) housed in the tubular said connecting portion (20), and having one end fixed angularly to said hinge pin (60), and the opposite end fixed angularly to the tubular said connecting portion (20).

11) (Original) An assembly as claimed in Claim 10, characterized in that the tubular said connecting portion (20) defines an annular chamber (29) coaxial with said axis of symmetry (23); said torsion spring (30) being a wire spring housed in said annular chamber (29) and coaxial with said axis of symmetry (23).

12) (Previously presented) An assembly as claimed in Claim 10, characterized in that said hinge pin (60) is fitted integrally with a radial toothed portion (76) of said gear drive (78).

13) (Original) An assembly as claimed in Claim 12, characterized in that said hinge pin (60) terminates at one end with a radial appendix (74) having a curved slot (75) with its center of curvature coincident with said hinge axis (66); said toothed portion (76) facing inwards of said slot (75) and meshing with a pinion (77) movable inside the slot (75).

14) (Currently amended) An assembly as claimed in Claim 12, characterized in that said ~~electric~~ rotary ~~actuator~~ motor (81) is housed in a cavity defined by said frame (53), and has an output shaft parallel to the hinge axis (66).

15) (Previously presented) An assembly as claimed in Claims 9, characterized in that said frame (53) is connected integrally to a fixed body (50) by a single through screw (70) extending coaxially with said hinge axis (66).

16) (Original) An assembly as claimed in Claim 15, characterized in that said frame (53) has a recess (56) bounded by a cylindrical end surface (57) coaxial with said axis of symmetry (23); said connecting portion (20) being housed removably in said recess (56); and said hinge pin (60) being connected in rotary manner to a hinge pin (67) coaxial with the hinge axis (66) and integral with a supporting plate (55) of said frame (53).

Claims 17) – 21) (Cancelled)

22) (Previously presented) An assembly as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that said movable supporting member comprises two contoured portions (15a) of the same shape and size.

23) (Original) An assembly as claimed in Claim 22, characterized in that said contoured portions (15a) extend on opposite sides of a central plane of symmetry (P) of the drive wheel (16), which plane is perpendicular to the axis of rotation of said drive wheel.

24) (Previously presented) An assembly as claimed in Claim 22, characterized in that said contoured portions (15a) are made of molded plastic material.

25) (Previously presented) An assembly as claimed in Claim 23, characterized in that said contoured portions contact, and are connected integrally to, each other.

26) (Previously presented) An assembly as claimed in Claim 22, characterized in that the contoured portions define at least one end fork having respective arms (15b); each arm having a respective integral cylindrical projection (15c) forming part of a hinge pin coaxial with a relative axis (A), and to which the drive wheel (16) is mounted to rotate about the relative axis (A).